

What is claimed is:

1. A method for generating a data feed file from at least one raw data file for use by a desktop application comprising:

5 (a) developing a set of data feed file criteria comprising at least one data-locating criterion;

(b) extracting at least a portion of data from a raw data file based on at least one data-locating criterion;

(c) creating a report wherein the report comprises data extracted from the raw data file;

10 (d) populating the data feed file with data from the report.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the data feed file further comprises transmitting the data feed file to a location electronically accessible to a desktop application.

15 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the location accessible to the desktop application is a local area network electronically accessible to a desktop application.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the raw data file comprises at least one record and each record comprises at least one data field.

20 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said data-locating criterion identifies the location of data in the raw data file needed for the data feed file.

25 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said location of data in the raw data file is defined as the location of the data field in each record of the raw data file containing data needed for the data feed file.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the data field location is identified by the category of data contained in the data field.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein the data field location is identified by the position of the data field in each record of the raw data file.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the data feed file criteria further comprises at least one data-limiting criterion wherein, the data-limiting criterion defines the characteristics of data that will be included in the data feed file.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprises:

- a) analyzing said report to determine whether data in the report complies with data-limiting criteria, and
- b) deleting lines from the report which contain data that does not comply with data-limiting criteria.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the data feed file criteria further comprises at least one hard-coded data criterion, wherein the hard-coded data criterion specifies data to be included in the data feed file that is not included in the raw data file.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising populating a data feed file with data specified by the hard-coded data criteria.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the raw data file is stored on an electronic storage device.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the electronic storage device is a mainframe computer.

15. The system of generating a data feed file from a raw data file for use by a desktop application comprising:

- (a) at least two data storage devices;
- (b) a data extraction tool wherein the data extraction tool:
 - i) extracts at least a portion of data from the raw data file based on at least one data-locating criterion, and

- ii) creates a report comprising the extracted data;
- (c) a formatting tool wherein said formatting tool:
 - i) extracts data from the report created by the data extraction tool, and
 - 5 ii) populates the data feed file with data extracted from the report.

16. The system of claim 15 further comprising a discrimination tool wherein the discrimination tool:

- 10 analyzes said report to determine whether data in the report complies with data-limiting criteria, and
- deletes lines from the report which contain data that does not comply with data-limiting criteria.

15 17. The system of claim 15 wherein said formatting tool further populates the data feed file with data specified by at least one hard-coded data criterion.

18. The system of claim 15 wherein at least one data storage device stores the raw data file.

20 19. The system of claim 15 wherein at least one data storage device stores the data feed file and is accessible to the desktop application.

20. The system of claim 15 further comprises a means to electronically transmit data between at least two data storage devices.

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21. The system of generating a data feed file from a raw data file for use by a desktop application comprising:

- (a) developing a set of data feed file criteria comprising at least one data-locating criterion;

(b) extracting at least a portion of data from a raw data file based on at least one data-locating criterion;

(c) creating a report wherein the report comprises data extracted from the raw data file;

5 (d) populating the data feed file with data from the report.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein said data feed file criteria further comprises at least one data-limiting criterion.

10 23. The system of claim 21 further comprising verifying that data in said report complies with said data-limiting criteria and deleting lines in the report that contain data that does not comply with said data-limiting criteria.

15 24. The system of claim 21 wherein said data feed file criteria further comprises at least one hard-coded data criterion.

25. The system of claim 24 further comprising populating the data feed file with data specified by the hard-coded data criterion.

20 26. The system of claim 21 further comprising transmitting said data feed file to a location electronically accessible to said desktop application.